

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17876 291459Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SSM-03 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W
-----002488 291501Z /20

O R 291315Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 983

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

:AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 7687

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: EG IS UNGA

SUBJ: REACTION TO UNGA VOTE ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SUMMARY: INITIAL PRESS REACTION PUTS UNGA VOTE IN
BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT PLAYING UP ISRAELI "TOTAL ISO-
LATION" AND DOWN PLAYING U.S. ABSTENTION. NEWS
ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR EDITORIAL COMMENT. PRIVATELY,
INFORMED EGYPTIANS REACTING VERY ADVERSELY, CLAIMING
U.S. ABSTENTION PROOF THAT ADMINISTRATION UNABLE TO
STAND UP TO ZIONIST PRESSURES AND THAT SADAT'S POSI-
TION HAS BEEN BADLY UNDERMINED WITH PLO, OTHER ARABS
AND EVEN AFRICANS SINCE CLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH U.S. IS
NOT PRODUCING EFFECTIVE RETURN FOR EGYPT AND ARABS.
END SUMMARY.

1. NEWS OF UNGA VOTE ON EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION ON

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 17876 291459Z

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARRIVED TOO LATE TO ELICIT EDI-
TORIAL COMMENT OCTOBER 29. PUTTING STORY IN BEST
POSSIBLE LIGHT PRESS PLAYED IT STRAIGHT, NOTING OVER-
WHELMING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION AND
ISRAEL'S "TOTAL ISOLATION". IN REPORTING RESOLUTION,
PAPERS LISTED ITS CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI ACTIONS IN
"OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES" (NO MENTION OF PALESTINE).

AMBASSADOR YOUNGS EXPLANATORY REMARKS REPORTED, WITH UNIDENTIFIED POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN NEW YORK COMMENTING THAT USG BELIEVED DISCUSSION OF SETTLEMENT PROBLEM AT THIS TIME COMPLICATES CHANCES FOR RECONVENING GENEVA.

2. PAPERS REPORTED AMBASSADOR MET WITH SADAT YESTERDAY TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, NOTING THIS THIRD SUCH MESSAGE THIS WEEK. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ALSO FEATURED PROMINENTLY.

3. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MID-EAST (WRITTEN PRIOR TO UNGA VOTE) CARRIED IN AHRAHAM OVER SIGNATURE RA'ID ATTAR, ERRATIC COLUMNIST REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO SADAT. TAKING LEAD FROM UPCOMING GEORGE BALL ARTICLE IN "POLITICS MAGAZINE", ATTAR STATE ISRAEL NOT SERIOUS ABOUT MID-EAST PEACE. EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN CONTROL AND TREATENING USE ATOMIC WEAPONS IN COMING WAR. ISRAEL DECEIVING AMERICA BY ACTING UNILATERALLY WHILE AT SAME TIME INSISTING U.S. UNDERWRITE COST OF THESE ACTIVITIES. ONLY SOLUTION, WRITER CONCLUDED, IS FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO EXERT GREATER EFFORT TOWARDS REEDUCATING CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE IN EFFORT SAVE AMERICA'S INTERESTS IN AREA.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 17876 291459Z

4. SPEAKING TO EMBOFF EVENING OCTOBER 28, HOWEVER, BEFORE RESULTS OF VOTING IN, PROMINENT COLUMNIST AND FAHMY CONFIDANT HODA TAWFIQ SAID SHE "WOULD NEVER TRUST UNITED STATES AGAIN IF IT ABSTAINS ON THIS ISSUE". SHE ARGUED THAT ABSTENTION WOULD BE "PROOF" THAT ADMINISTRATION UNABLE STAND UP TO ZIONIST LOBBY EVEN IN AREA WHERE ITS POLICY ALREADY OF PUBLIC RECORD.

5. POLCOUNS RECEIVED EVEN MORE NEGATIVE REACTION OCTOBER 29 FROM MEMBER FAHMY'S IMMEDIATE STAFF, WHO CLAIMED U.S. FAILURE TO VOTE FOR POSITION IT HAD ITSELF ALREADY TAKEN WAS PURE AND SIMPLE DUE TO ZIONIST PRESSURES. REAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ABSTENTION WAS THAT IT WOULD UNDERMINE SADAT'S ABILITY TO CONTROL SITUATION. ARAFAT CAN NOW ASK WHY PLO SHOULD HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHEN IT CANNOT EVEN VOTE FOR UNGA RESOLUTION OF NO SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE. EVEN WITHIN MINISTRY, OFFICIAL CLAIMED, THERE ARE MANY WHO FEEL EGYPT'S LEADERSHIP POSITION IN ME AND AFRICA BEING UNDERMINED BY TOO CLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH U.S. WHEN THIS ALIGNMENT DOES NOT PRODUCE

EFFECTIVE RESULTS, THEN NOT ONLY IS SADAT FURTHER UNDERMINED BUT SO IS U.S. POSITION. FINALLY, OFFICIAL TOTALLY REJECTED U.S. THESIS OF NEED TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES AND NEUTRALITY OF MEDIATOR, "AGGRESSIVE" POLICIES IS WHEN U.S. GOT TOUGH: EISENHOWER IN 1956 AND KISSINGER TO BRING OFF SINAI I AND SINAI II.

6. MFA U/S AHMAD OSMAN DEPLORED TO POLCOUNS U.S. ABSTENTION, STATING IT PROOF THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION, LIKE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS, HAD UNDERESTIMATED POWER OF SIONIST LOBBY. OSMAN SAID SADAT STRATEGY FROM BEGINNING HAD BEEN BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT STRONG AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION (LIKE EISENHOWER IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 CAIRO 17876 291459Z

1956 OR NIXON IMMEDIATELY AFTER 1972 ELECTION) WOULD CARRY OUT POLICY IN INTERESTS OF U.S. DESPITE STRONG ZIONIST OPPOSITION AND INABILITY OF U.S. PUBLIC TO COMPREHEND STAKES INVOLVED.

7. COMMENT: WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW EGYPT'S GUIDED PRESS PLAYS U.S. ABSTENTION. WE ANTICIPATE PAPERS WILL CONTINUE ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE, SWELLING ON ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND MASSIVE CONDEMNATION OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT HAVE TO TAKE CONSIDERABLE FLACK FROM UNINFORMED OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LAND SETTLEMENT, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977108/aaaaafxk.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: b44ea933-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 983904
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO UNGA VOTE ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SUMMARY: INITIAL PRESS REACTION PUTS UNGA VOTE IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT PLAYING UP ISRAELI "TOTAL ISO-TAGS: SOPN, PORG, PBOR, MPOL, EG, IS, US, UNGA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b44ea933-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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